

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Oklahoma DOT Continues the Development of Locally Coordinated Public Transit-Human Service Transportation Plan

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma USA – September 21, 2007

ODOT receives an annual allocation of Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom funds from the Federal Transit Administration. The JARC program provides funding for commuter services and transportation services for low-income individuals that related to their employment. ODOT has combined the 2006 and 2007 fiscal years apportionments to finance this initial program year. The total amount of funds available for JARC projects in Norman and Lawton is \$356,450 and for projects in the small urban and rural areas of the state is \$1,524,240. The New Freedom program provides funding for projects that improved public transportation services, and alternatives to public transportation, for people with disabilities. Project must go beyond the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). ODOT has combined the 2006 and 2007 fiscal years apportionments to finance this initial program year. The total amount available for projects in the Norman and Lawton is \$148,037 and for projects in the small urban and rural areas it is \$756,175.

The Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) requires that beginning in FFY 2007, projects selected for funding under the JARC and New Freedom programs must be derived from the Locally Developed Coordinated Public Transit-Human Service Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan). The Coordinated Plan includes a recommended list of top tier priorities. Applications for JARC and New Freedom funds will be scored based on how the application directly addresses the priorities identified in the Coordinated Plan. You can download a copy of the Coordinated from our website www.oklacoordination.net or by contracting Jennifer Mason at (405) 521-2584.

JARC and New Freedom grants are competitive. Eligible applicants include state, local and tribal governments, private non-profit organizations, and operators of public transportation services, including private operators of public transportation services. Interested organizations are encouraged to attend one of the mandatory training sessions listed below. Only those organizations who attend one of the training sessions will be eligible to submit an application.

JARC and New Freedom program funds are intended to fund innovative and flexible programs that address the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and individuals with limited incomes. Funds may be used for planning, capital or operating costs of providing access to jobs, or for services and facilities that improve mobility for persons with disabilities but not limited to persons who are ADA-certified.

ODOT is requesting proposals which address transportation issues that have been identified in the Coordinated Plan. The deadline for submitting an application is 4:00 PM, April 1, 2008. Applications will be made available during the **mandatory** training sessions to be conducted in February and March, 2008. The locations for these mandatory training sessions are listed in the table below. Applications will not be accepted from project proponents who did not attend a training workshop. Please respond by contacting Jennifer Mason at (405) 521-2584 or jmason@odot.org and provide the name of your organization, contact person's name, phone number and email address as well as the workshop location you will attend.

Our website, www.oklacoordination.net, has recently been updated with summaries of previous meetings, handouts and more information about the project and the Locally Coordinated Public Transit/Human Service Transportation Plan. If you require an alternative format for any of these documents please contact Danelle Covey at (918)582-2552 or email your request to odot_plan@urscorp.com.

<p>February 26th 9 AM – 1 PM-Tulsa Boulder Towers, Granite Room (918) 582-2552 1437 S. Boulder Ave Tulsa, OK 74119</p>	<p>February 26th 2:30-6:30PM-Woodward Woodward Public Library (580) 254-8544 1500 Main Woodward, OK 73801</p>
<p>February 27th 9 AM – 1 PM-Lawton Museum of the Great Plains, LDM Hall (580) 581-3460 601 NW Ferris Lawton, OK 73507</p>	<p>February 27th 9 AM – 1 PM-McAlester Southeast Expo Center, Room 101 (918) 420-3976 4500 W. Highway 270 McAlester, OK 74501</p>
<p>March 10th 9AM-1PM-Norman Lowery Room Norman City Library (405)701-2600 225 North Webster Norman, OK 73069</p>	<p>NOTE THE DATE ON THE NORMAN MEETING</p>

For More Information Contact:

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